

October 21, 2019

Montgomery County Board of Elections 18753 N. Frederick Ave, Suite 210 Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Dear Chair Shalleck and Members of the Board:

After following the discussion at the September 16 County Board of Elections meeting as well as the October 8 Maryland State Board of Elections meetings, we are writing this joint letter to clarify our position. We strongly urge the Montgomery County Board of Elections to recommend adding a 12th early-voting site for the 2020 primary and general election in White Oak. We commit to funding of this site for the 2020 primary and general elections.

Having closer and more convenient early-voting centers — as well as early-voting centers that are sited on major transit corridors like U.S. 29 — is especially important in areas with low car ownership and high transit dependency like East County, where around 35 percent of adults do not own a car despite limited transit availability in that area.

That's why we believe that the White Oak Recreation Center — which is more convenient to East County voters than the Burtonsville or Silver Spring early-voting sites — should be designated as the county's 12th early-voting site for the upcoming General election. Having early voting at White Oak will relieve pressure, and reduce the long lines, at nearby polling places on Election Day.

Voting is our precious and hard-won right and responsibility as Americans. We hope the Montgomery County Board of Elections would collaborate with us to make it as easy as possible for these voters to access early voting.

Sincerely,

Marc Elrich, County

Executive

Nancy Navarro, Council

President

Sidney Katz, Council Vice-President

Gabe Albornoz Councilmember At-Large

Em Glim Evan Glass

Councilmember At-Large

Will Jawando

Councilmember At-Large

Hans Riemer Councilmember At-Large

Craig Rice Councilmember District 2 Tom Hucker

Councilmember District 5

cc: Maryland State Board of Elections